SUBJECTS.

Courts. Thus, these lands have almost become the properties of the present holders. The Settlement Department registered many Kandukrishi lands in the names of persons other than the original holders. The present holders having in some cases converted their lands into gardens and having set up buildings at a heavy cost, it would be a hardship if their ownership were not recognised. He therefore requested that Government might be pleased to declare that Kandukrishi lands were alienable.

Dewan's reply.—As a matter of policy, if Government find a man for a long time in the enjoyment of a Kandukrishi land, they do *not* eject him, because of the inconvenience and hardship he will be put to, though Government have the *right* to do it. Government will continue the policy, but a general order, such as is sought for, cannot be given. Successive Dewans have declared that Kandukrishi lands are Crown lands, which are at the *absolute* disposal of Government.

6. *The difficulties of punja cultivation and how to remedy them.*

Mr. A. Krishna Pillai (Member, Kottayam Taluk) said that the method of cultivating *punja* lands differed considerably from the cultivation of paddy in South Travancore. In the former case, a large volume of water had to be drained and the plot of ground made fit for sowing paddy, whereas in the latter case the land was always ready for cultivation. The materials required for putting up bunds for the *punja* lands were not easily obtainable. Much difficulty was experienced on account of the absence of drainage canals to carry off the surplus water. These *punja* lands entirely depended upon natural sources of manure; and the absence of drainage canals communicating with rivers placed many acres of *punja* land beyond the reach of such manures. The ryots, not being rich, began their work with borrowed capital; and besides, they had to protect their fields from the action of high tides. The Member requested that Government might be pleased to order the construction of new drainage canals and the introduction of Grain Banks and Co-operative Credit Societies.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

7. *Hardship caused by realising wet assessment on nanjamel-punja lands.*

Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Aiyar (Member, Shencotta Taluk) said that half the area of wet lands in Shencotta was fit only for dry cultivation during the Kanni season on account of the want of irrigational facilities. In 1082, the people appealed to Government and remission was granted *for that year only*, though the appeal was for a *general* remission of tax for the Kanni crop. Hence the

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